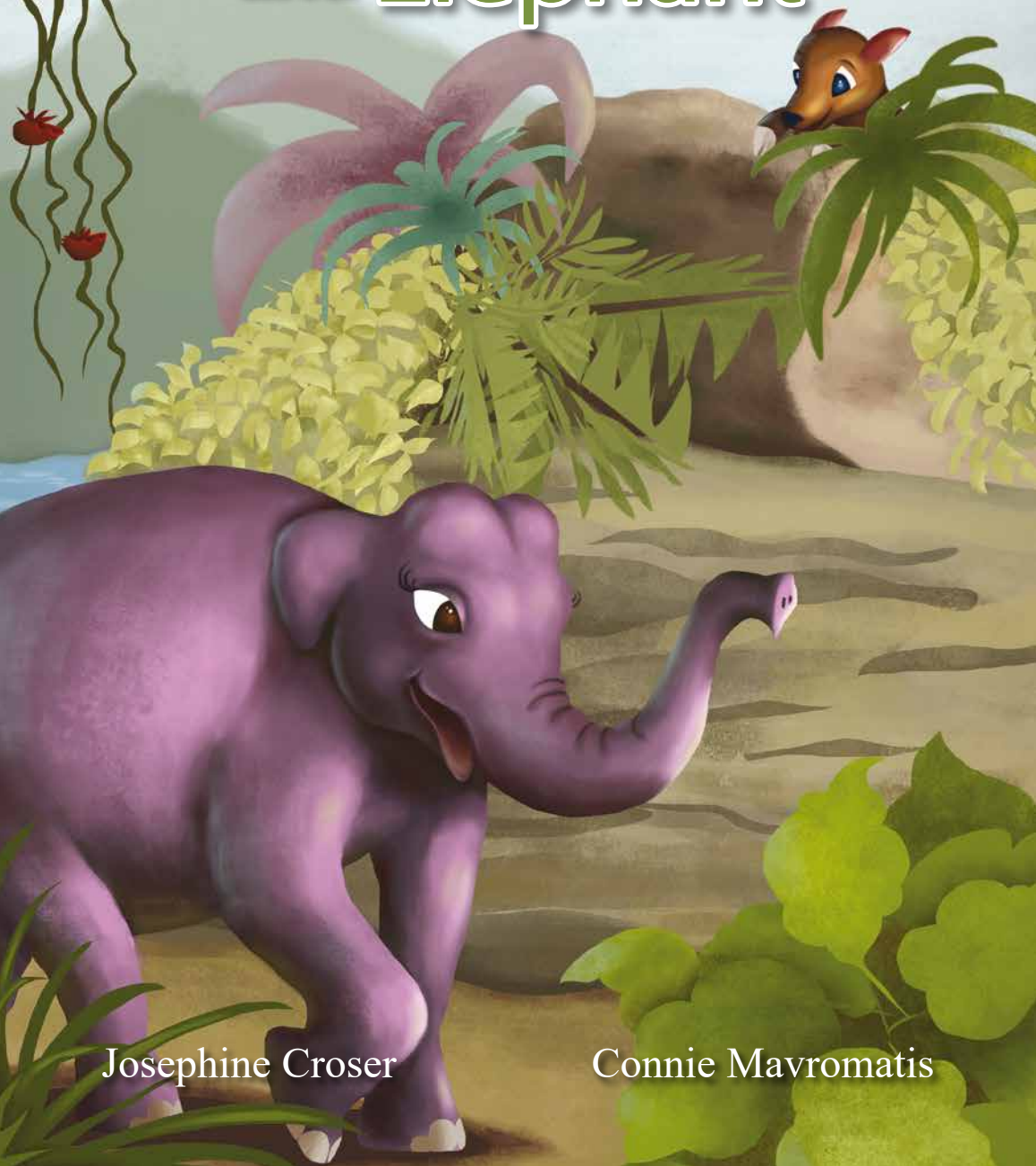


Mouse Deer and Elephant



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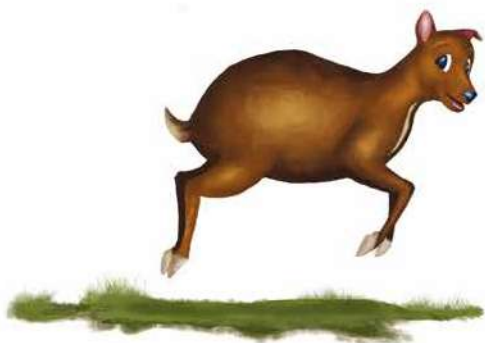
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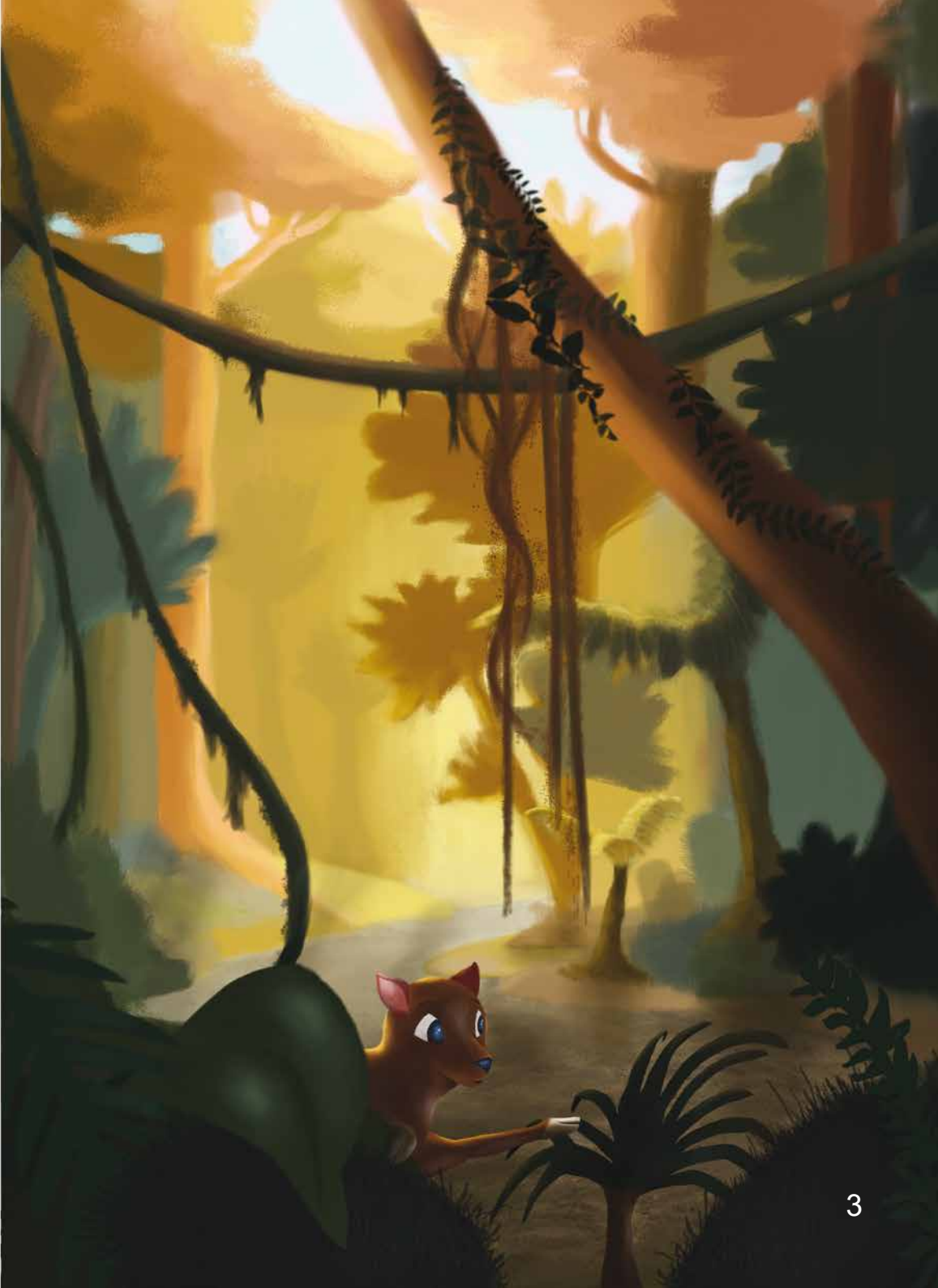
Mouse Deer and Elephant



retold by Josephine Croser
illustrated by Connie Mavromatis

Mouse Deer ran and hopped about in the forest. He was looking for food.





Suddenly he fell.

He fell down into a big, deep hole.





Mouse Deer looked up. He could see white clouds moving across the sky.

“I will die in this hole!” he moaned. “I have no food, no water, and no way out!”

Mouse Deer sat sadly until he heard noises. He heard a thump and a bump and the snap of sticks.





“Elephant is coming!” cried Mouse Deer.

“She could save me but she might be too busy.”





Mouse Deer thought of a plan. “Elephant, oh, Elephant,” he called.

Elephant heard him and looked down.

“What are you doing down there?” she asked.

“Elephant! Look up at the sky. See how the clouds are running away? The world is coming to an end. But I am safe down here.”





“Hmm,” said Elephant. “Is there room down there for me, too?”

“Yes, but wait,” cried Mouse Deer. “If you come in, you will squash me. Please lift me up first. Then, when you are down here, I can jump down again.”

“Good idea,” said Elephant. She let down her trunk and Mouse Deer hopped onto it. Then she swung him up onto her back.



Mouse Deer looked around. It was a long jump down from Elephant's back.

“You can go down now,” he said sweetly to Elephant.

Down she stepped into the big, deep hole. When Mouse Deer looked around, the ground was very close, now.



Mouse Deer jumped across to the ground. “Thank you for helping me out of the hole,” he said. “You are big and strong but I am clever. The world is not coming to an end at all!”

And off ran that cheeky Mouse Deer!



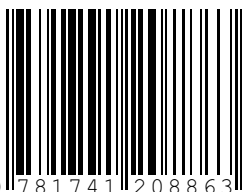
Mouse Deer and Elephant

Mouse Deer is stuck
down a hole! Then he
hears Elephant coming.
Will she help him?

How will he get out of
the hole?



Trickster Tale



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